

**THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK**

**ROTHSCHILD BROADCAST  
DISTRIBUTION SYSTEMS, LLC,**

**Plaintiff,**

**v.**

**SHOWTIME NETWORKS, INC.,**

**Defendant.**

**CIVIL ACTION NO. 7:21-cv-04306**

**JURY TRIAL DEMANDED**

**COMPLAINT**

Plaintiff Rothschild Broadcast Distribution Systems, LLC (“Plaintiff” or “Rothschild Broadcast Distribution Systems”) files this complaint against Showtime Networks, Inc. (“Showtime”) for infringement of U.S. Patent No. 8,856,221 (hereinafter the “‘221 Patent”) and alleges as follows:

**PARTIES**

1. Plaintiff is a Texas limited liability company with an office at 1 East Broward Boulevard, Suite 700, Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33301.
2. On information and belief, Defendant is a Delaware corporation, with a place of business at 1633 Broadway, New York, NY 10019. On information and belief, Defendant may be served through its agent, United States Corporation Company, 251 Little Falls Drive, Wilmington, DE 19808.

**JURISDICTION AND VENUE**

3. This action arises under the patent laws of the United States, 35 U.S.C. § 271 et seq. Plaintiff is seeking damages, as well as attorney fees and costs.

4. Jurisdiction is proper in this Court pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1331 (Federal Question) and 1338(a) (Patents).

5. On information and belief, this Court has personal jurisdiction over Defendant because Defendant has committed, and continues to commit, acts of infringement in this District, has conducted business in this District, and/or has engaged in continuous and systematic activities in this District.

6. Upon information and belief, Defendant's instrumentalities that are alleged herein to infringe were and continue to be used, imported, offered for sale, and/or sold in the District.

7. Venue is proper in this District under 28 U.S.C. §1400(b) because Defendant is deemed to be a resident in this District. Alternatively, acts of infringement are occurring in this District and Defendant has a regular and established place of business in this District.

### **BACKGROUND**

8. On October 7, 2014, the United States Patent and Trademark Office ("USPTO") duly and legally issued the '221 Patent, entitled "System and Method for Storing Broadcast Content in a Cloud-Based Computing Environment" after the USPTO completed a full and fair examination. The '221 Patent is attached as Exhibit A.

9. Rothschild Broadcast Distribution Systems is currently the owner of the '221 Patent.

10. Rothschild Broadcast Distribution Systems possesses all rights of recovery under the '221 Patent, including the exclusive right to recover for past, present and future infringement.

11. The '221 Patent contains thirteen claims including two independent claims (claims 1 and 7) and eleven dependent claims.

**COUNT ONE**  
**(Infringement of United States Patent No. 8,856,221)**

12. Plaintiff refers to and incorporates the allegations in Paragraphs 1 - 11, the same as if set forth herein.

13. This cause of action arises under the patent laws of the United States and, in particular under 35 U.S.C. §§ 271, *et seq.*

14. Defendant has knowledge of its infringement of the '221 Patent, at least as of the service of the present complaint.

15. The '221 Patent teaches a method and apparatus for media content storage and delivery. '221 Patent, Abstract. Among other things, the claimed system includes a server, which has a receiver in communication with a processor. *Id.* The receiver receives a request message. *Id.* The request message includes media data indicating requested media content and a consumer device identifier corresponding to a consumer device. *Id.* The processor determines whether the consumer device identifier corresponds to a registered consumer device. *Id.* If the processor determines that the consumer device identifier corresponds to the registered consumer device, then the processor determines whether the request message is one of a storage request message and a content request message. *Id.* If the request message is the storage request message, then the processor is further configured to determine whether the requested media content is available for storage. *Id.* If the request message is the content request message, then the processor initiates delivery of the requested media content to the consumer device. *Id.*

16. The present invention solves problems that existed with then-existing media delivery systems. One problem with prior delivery systems is that the customer was charged according to the expenses of the provider rather than the usage of the customer. '221 Patent, 1:31-57. Customers were not charged based on the amount of programming delivered or the amount or

duration of the customer's storage of media. *Id.* Another such problem, more generally, is that customers were not billed and services were not provided, in a way that was tailored to the customer's needs and usage. *Id.*, 2:3-13.

17. A number of aspects of the invention(s) embodied in the '221 Patent overcome the problems with the prior art. For example, the inventive system includes a processor in communication with a receiver. *Id.*, 2:23-34. The processor determines media content characteristics that correspond to the media content to be stored. *Id.* The processor determines a length of time to store the media content based on the media data and determines a cost amount based at least in part on the determined media content characteristics and length of time to store the media content. *Id.* As another example, the system makes a determination that media content is available for download. *Id.*, 2:64-3:2. A determination is made that content is not stored. Download of the media content is initiated. *Id.* The media content is received and the received media content is stored. *Id.*

18. The '221 Patent is directed to computerized technologies to provide users with tailored media delivery systems and tailored billing for such systems. Among other things, the '221 Patent claims include sending and receiving of request messages indicating requested media content and including a device identifier corresponding to a consumer device. A determination is made whether the identifier corresponds to the device. A determination is also made as to whether the request is for delivery or storage. The media data in the request includes time data that indicates a length of time for storage. A processor is configured to determine whether requested media exists and whether there are any restrictions associated with delivery or storage of the requested media.

19. The system(s) and methods of the ‘221 Patent include software and hardware that do not operate in a conventional manner. For example, the software is tailored to provide functionality to perform recited steps and the processor is configured (and/or programmed) to provide functionality recited throughout the claims of the ‘221 Patent.

20. The ‘221 Patent solves problems with the art that are rooted in computer technology and that are associated with electronic transmission, loading, and storage of location information, as well as automatic provisioning of route guidance. The ‘221 Patent claims do not merely recite the performance of some business practice known from the pre-Internet world along with the requirement to perform it on the Internet.

21. The improvements of the ‘221 Patent and the features recited in the claims in the ‘221 Patent provide improvements to conventional hardware and software systems and methods. The improvements render the claimed invention of the ‘221 Patent non-generic in view of conventional components.

22. The improvements of the ‘221 Patent and the features recitations in the claims of the ‘221 Patent are not those that would be well-understood, routine or conventional to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention.

23. Accordingly, Defendant has infringed, and continues to infringe, the ‘221 Patent in violation of 35 U.S.C. § 271. Upon information and belief, Defendant has infringed and continues to infringe one or more claims, including at least Claim 7, of the ‘221 Patent by making, using, importing, selling, and/or offering for media content storage and delivery systems and services covered by one or more claims of the ‘221 Patent.

24. Defendant sells, offers to sell, and/or uses media content storage and delivery systems and services, including, without limitation, the “SHOWTIME” media delivery platform, any

associated hardware, software and apps, as well as any similar products (“Product”), which infringe at least Claim 7 of the ‘221 Patent.

25. The Product practices a method of storing (e.g., cloud storage) media content (e.g., conference recording) and delivering requested media content (streaming video, recorded videos, etc.) to a consumer device (e.g., mobile device with app or software). Certain aspects of these elements are illustrated in the screenshots below and/or in those provided in connection with other allegations herein.

Get instant and unlimited access to commercial-free, award-winning SHOWTIME original series, can't miss movies, groundbreaking documentaries, laugh-out-loud comedy specials, hard-hitting sports and much more. Watch live TV or catch up on-demand on your TV, tablet, phone or computer. Plus, you can download full episodes and movies to your favorite mobile devices and watch them offline, whenever and wherever.

Source: <https://www.sho.com/showtime-anytime>

## WATCH ANYWHERE

Stream live or on-demand, or download full episodes and movies to your mobile devices and watch offline. Download the SHOWTIME app to any supported TV, streaming player, tablet or phone. Or, watch right here.

Source: <https://www.showtime.com/#getstarted>

### WATCH ANYWHERE

Your customers can watch SHOWTIME on their computer, tablet, phone, TV streaming devices and game consoles.

Source: <https://www.sho.com/shoplace/showtime-anytime>

### DOWNLOAD

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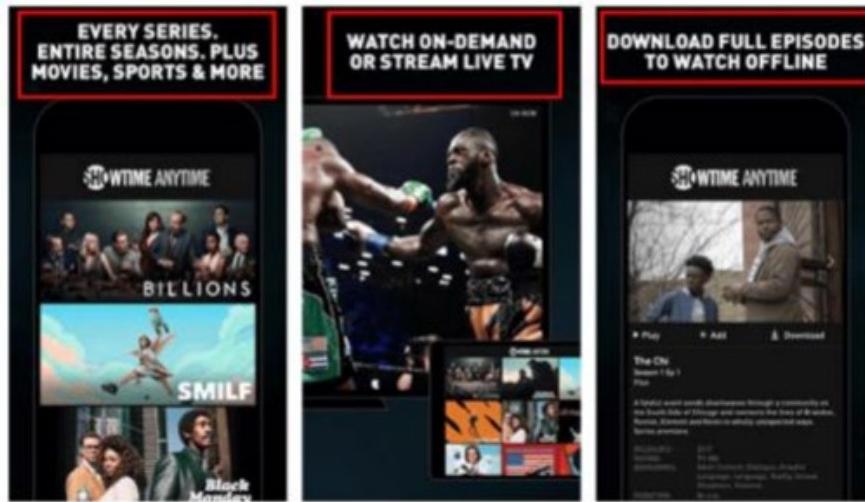
## What Is SHOWTIME Anytime?

SHOWTIME Anytime is a service that provides instant access to award-winning series, movies, groundbreaking documentaries, laugh-out-loud comedy shows, hard-hitting sports, and much more in the US and its territories and possessions. It lets you watch live TV or catch up on-demand on your TV, tablet, phone, or computer.

Source: <https://www.appschopper.com/blog/app-of-the-week-showtime-tv-movies-and-more>

## How does the SHOWTIME app work?

SHOWTIME Anytime app has partnered with many various TVs and video streaming networks, such as U-verse, Direct TV, Cox, Frontier, Mediacom, Spectrum, etc. It also lets you stream to Amazon FireTV, Android TV, Apple TV, Chromecast, and others.



The app is a masterpiece from SHOWTIME Digital Inc. to stream content anytime. Being one of the most sought-after streaming apps, SHOWTIME Anytime lets users browse different videos to download or play. Let's see how it works.

Source: <https://www.appsshopper.com/blog/app-of-the-week-showtime-tv-movies-and-more>

26. The Product necessarily includes a receiver configured to receive a request message including data indicating requested media content (e.g., the Product must have infrastructure to receive a request to store recorded media content or to stream recorded media content on a smartphone; additionally, the request message must contain data that identifies the content to be stored or streamed) and a consumer device identifier corresponding to a consumer device (e.g., the user credentials are used to access the contents of the Product). Certain aspects of these elements are illustrated in the screenshots below and/or in those provided in connection with other allegations herein.

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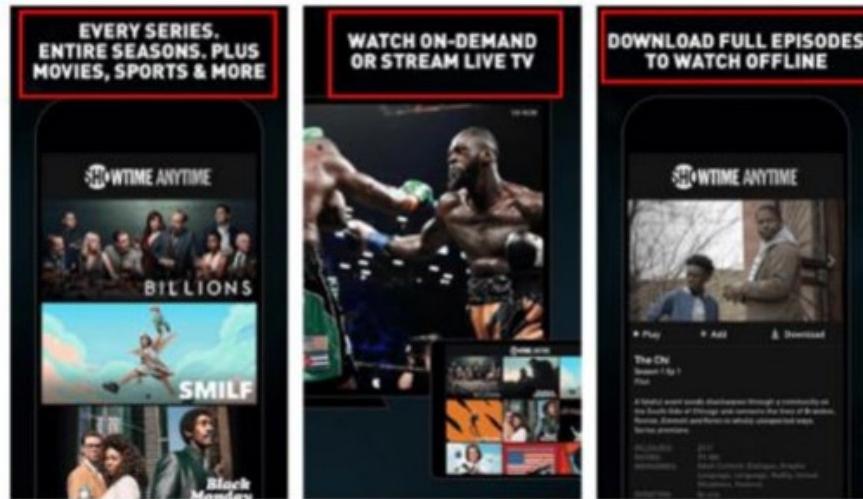
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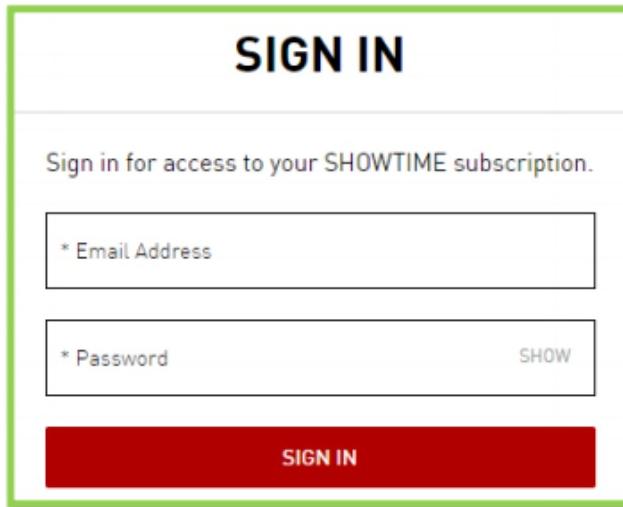
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**DOWNLOAD**

Your customers can download full episodes and movies to their favorite mobile devices to watch offline later.

Source: <https://www.sho.com/shoplace/showtime-anytime>



The image shows a 'SIGN IN' form for Showtime. At the top, it says 'SIGN IN'. Below that, it says 'Sign in for access to your SHOWTIME subscription.' There are two input fields: one for 'Email Address' and one for 'Password'. To the right of the password field is a small link labeled 'SHOW'. At the bottom is a large red 'SIGN IN' button.

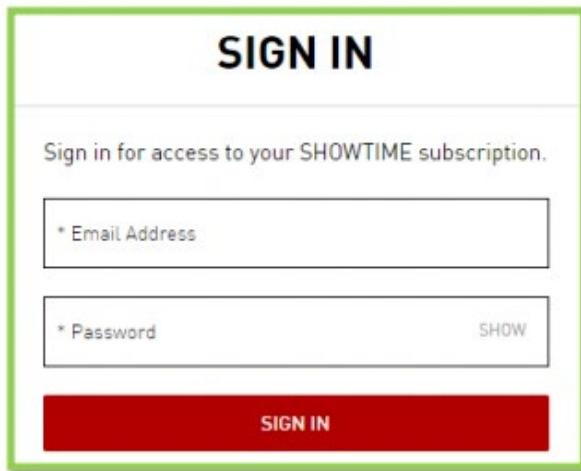
Source: <https://www.showtime.com/#signin>

27. The Product necessarily determines whether the consumer device identifier corresponds to the registered consumer device (e.g., a user must be a registered user to access the Product's services). Certain aspects of these elements are illustrated in the screenshots below and/or in those provided in connection with other allegations herein.

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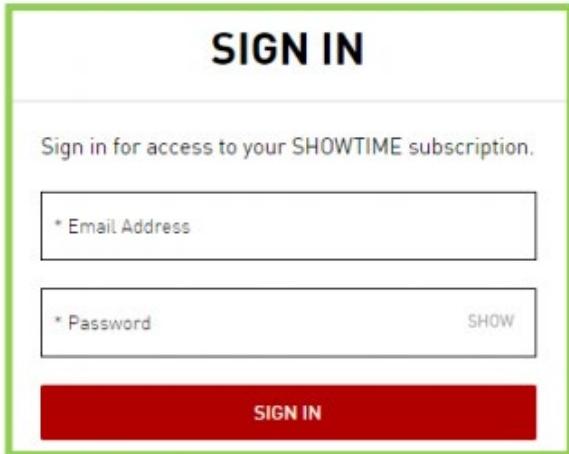
Source: <https://www.showtime.com/#getstarted>



The image shows the SHOWTIME sign-in page. It features a white background with a green border. At the top center, the word "SIGN IN" is written in bold black capital letters. Below it, a message reads "Sign in for access to your SHOWTIME subscription." There are two input fields: one for "Email Address" and one for "Password". To the right of the password field is a "SHOW" button. At the bottom is a large red "SIGN IN" button.

Source: <https://www.showtime.com/#signin>

28. The Product provides for both media downloads and/or storage, and media streaming. After a successful login, the Product necessarily determines whether the request received from a customer is a request for storage (e.g., recording or storing content) or content (e.g., streaming of media content). Certain aspects of these elements are illustrated in the screenshots below and/or in those provided in connection with other allegations herein.



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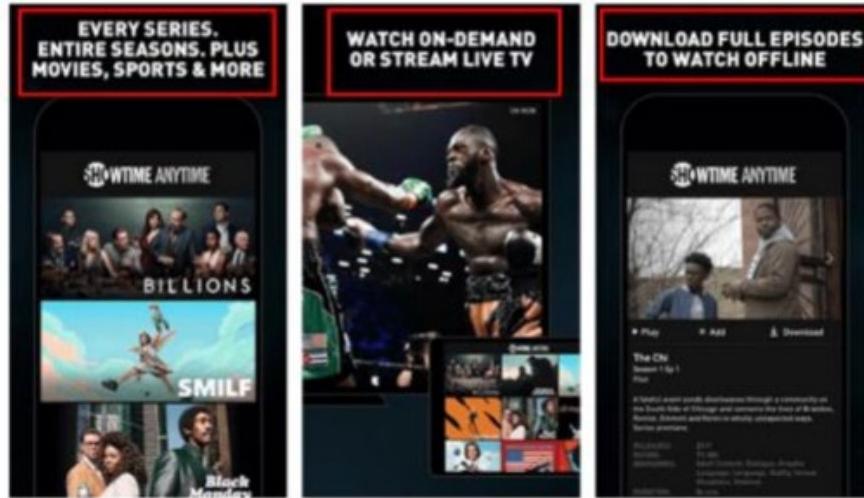
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Source: <https://www.appshopper.com/blog/app-of-the-week-showtime-tv-movies-and-more>

29. The Product verifies that media content identified in the media data of the storage request message (e.g., request to record content) is available for storage in order to prevent data errors that would result from attempting to store content that is not available for storage. The Product must verify that the media content (e.g. specific recording) identified in the media data of the storage request message is available for storage in order to prevent data errors that would result from attempting to store content that is not available for storage (e.g., the product must verify a user's ability to store media content is limited to a certain amount of time). If any media content is streamed using a third party platform then it will be automatically stored in that particular platform.

Certain aspects of these elements are illustrated in the screenshots below and/or in those provided in connection with other allegations herein.

If a program is available to download on your mobile device, a download icon will be displayed on the program detail page. You can also download eligible programs you have added to 'My List.'

To download an individual program from its title detail page:

1. Tap the download icon next to the title.
2. If this is the first download to your device, you will be asked to select your download quality preference. This will be the default for future downloads and can be changed at any time in Settings.
3. After you select your download quality preference, your program will begin downloading.

Source: <https://help.showtime.com/hc/en-us/articles/115005535428-How-do-I-download-a-program-to-watch-offline->



Source: <https://www.sho.com/order>

The SHOWTIME streaming service is available as a monthly subscription or as an annual subscription. If you chose to subscribe on a month-to-month basis, you will be charged \$10.99/month\* when your free trial period ends. If you choose to subscribe on an annual basis, you will be charged \$99/year\* when your free trial period ends. Annual subscriptions are only available when you subscribe directly through SHOWTIME.com. The cost of the subscription will be charged to the payment method associated with your SHOWTIME, Amazon, Android, Apple or Roku account, depending on where you started your subscription.

Source: <https://help.showtime.com/hc/en-us/articles/206397268-How-much-does-the-SHOWTIME-streaming-service-cost>

To gain access to the feature, simply update either the Showtime or Showtime Anytime app. Once the update completes, the entirety of Showtime's library will be available for download and offline viewing. Content includes all current seasons of ongoing series like *Homeland*, *Billions*, and *Shameless*; full runs of older series like *Weeds* and *Dexter*; and Showtime's catalog of films and documentaries. To begin downloading, simply navigate to a program's detail page and tap "download." Downloaded content can be accessed by opening the "download list" at the top of the app's navigation bar.

Source: <https://www.digitaltrends.com/home-theater/showtime-offline-watching-now-available/>

With the SHOWTIME app, you can stream entire seasons, star-studded movies, groundbreaking documentaries, comedy, sports (including SHOWTIME Championship Boxing), and much more – all commercial-free. Watch all the latest episodes of your favorite shows whenever and wherever you are – live or on demand. New titles added all the time so there's always something great to watch. On the go? Download full episodes and movies and watch offline. No cable subscription needed!

Source: [https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.showtime.standalone&hl=en\\_IN&gl=US](https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.showtime.standalone&hl=en_IN&gl=US)

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Source: <https://www.sho.com/shopplace/showtime-anytime>

30. If a customer requests content (e.g., live streaming of media content), then a processor within the Product necessarily initiates delivery of the content to the customer's device. The Product will initiate delivery of the requested media content to the consumer device (e.g., stream media content feed to a smartphone or tablet etc.) if the request message is a content request message (e.g., request for live streaming). Certain aspects of these elements are illustrated in the screen shots below and/or in screen shots provided in connection with other allegations herein.

If a program is available to download on your mobile device, a download icon will be displayed on the program detail page. You can also download eligible programs you have added to 'My List.'

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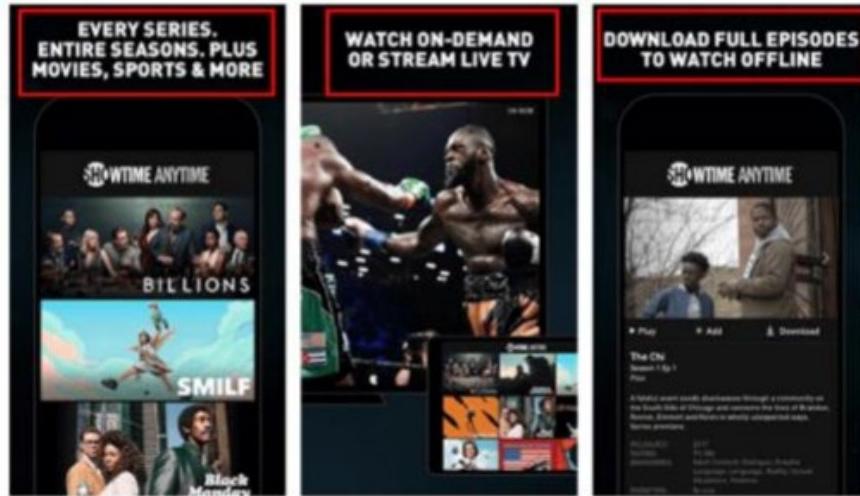
1. Tap the download icon next to the title.
2. If this is the first download to your device, you will be asked to select your download quality preference. This will be the default for future downloads and can be changed at any time in Settings.
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Source: <https://help.showtime.com/hc/en-us/articles/115005535428-How-do-I-download-a-program-to-watch-offline->

5

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Source: <https://www.appshopper.com/blog/app-of-the-week-showtime-tv-movies-and-more>

31. The media data includes date and time information to identify conference start and stop times, as well as meeting length. Time data may also indicate a length of time to store the requested media content (e.g. a user is allowed to store media content for a retention period configured by the user per their subscription level). Certain aspects of these elements are illustrated in the screenshots below and/or in those provided in connection with other allegations herein.



Source: <https://www.sho.com/order>

The SHOWTIME streaming service is available as a monthly subscription or as an annual subscription. If you chose to subscribe on a month-to-month basis, you will be charged \$10.99/month\* when your free trial period ends. If you choose to subscribe on an annual basis, you will be charged \$99/year\* when your free trial period ends. Annual subscriptions are only available when you subscribe directly through SHOWTIME.com. The cost of the subscription will be charged to the payment method associated with your SHOWTIME, Amazon, Android, Apple or Roku account, depending on where you started your subscription.

Source: <https://help.showtime.com/hc/en-us/articles/206397268-How-much-does-the-SHOWTIME-streaming-service-cost->

32. The Product must first determine whether the requested media content exists prior to initiating delivery in order to prevent data errors that would result from attempting to transmit media content that does not exist (e.g., the product must verify that a particular requested data is stored in the cloud). Also, a user can view the history of media content and the processor can identify the existence of that particular media content. Certain aspects of these elements are illustrated in the screenshots below and/or in those provided in connection with other allegations herein.

33. After the processor determines whether the requested media content is available, it determines whether there are restrictions associated with the requested media content (e.g., user access

restrictions, etc.). Certain aspects of these elements are illustrated in the screenshots below and/or those provided in connection with other allegations herein.

34. Defendant's actions complained of herein will continue unless Defendant is enjoined by this Court.

35. Defendant's actions complained of herein is causing irreparable harm and monetary damage to Plaintiff and will continue to do so unless and until Defendant is enjoined and restrained by this Court.

36. The '221 Patent is valid, enforceable, and was duly issued in full compliance with Title 35 of the United States Code.

37. A copy of the '221 Patent, titled "System and Method for Storing Broadcast Content in a Cloud-based Computing Environment," is attached hereto as Exhibit A.

38. By engaging in the conduct described herein, Defendant has injured Plaintiff and is liable for infringement of the '221 Patent, pursuant to 35 U.S.C. § 271.

39. Defendant has committed these acts of literal infringement, or infringement under the doctrine of equivalents of the '221 Patent, without license or authorization.

40. As a result of Defendant's infringement of the '221 Patent, injured Plaintiff has suffered monetary damages and is entitled to a monetary judgment in an amount adequate to compensate for Defendant's past infringement, together with interests and costs.

41. Plaintiff is in compliance with 35 U.S.C. § 287.

42. As such, Plaintiff is entitled to compensation for any continuing and/or future infringement of the '221 Patent up until the date that Defendant ceases its infringing activities.

**DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL**

43. Rothschild Broadcast Distribution Systems, under Rule 38 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, requests a trial by jury of any issues so triable by right.

**PRAYER FOR RELIEF**

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff asks the Court to:

- (a) Enter judgment for Plaintiff on this Complaint on all cases of action asserted herein;
- (b) Enter an Order enjoining Defendant, its agents, officers, servants, employees, attorneys, and all persons in active concert or participation with Defendant who receives notice of the order from further infringement of United States Patent No. 8,856,221 (or, in the alternative, awarding Plaintiff running royalty from the time judgment going forward);
- (c) Award Plaintiff damages resulting from Defendants infringement in accordance with 35 U.S.C. § 284;
- (d) Award Plaintiff such further relief to which the Court finds Plaintiff entitled under law or equity.

Dated: May 13, 2021

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Jay Johnson

**JAY JOHNSON**

State Bar No. 24067322

**KIZZIA JOHNSON, PLLC**

1910 Pacific Avenue, Suite 13000

Dallas, Texas 75201

(214) 451-0164

Fax: (214) 451-0165

[jay@kpcllc.com](mailto:jay@kpcllc.com)

**ATTORNEYS FOR PLAINTIFF**